

30th Congressional District, I was unable to record my vote on H. Res. 525, providing for release and review by the Committee on the Judiciary of a communication from Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on final passage on this measure.

TRIBUTE TO NILES DELFOSSE

**HON. JAY W. JOHNSON**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 1998*

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great teacher, Niles Delfosse of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

I call Niles a teacher for the lessons he gives all of us about the strength of the human spirit. He is a U.S. Army combat veteran of the Vietnam War, and he knows a great deal about courage and sacrifice.

But on December 31, 1996, a drunk driver left Niles Delfosse a quadriplegic, the victim of a hit-and-run car accident. Niles spent over six months in the hospital recovering from the accident, and is now confined to a wheelchair with very limited use of his arms and legs.

Such a tragic event would undoubtedly shake any person's faith. Yet, Niles' friends tell me that he maintains a positive attitude that inspires everyone around him, every day.

And he leads by example. I am proud to report to you today that this past summer, Niles participated in the 18th National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This field of more than 600 athletes from 40 states, Puerto Rico and Great Britain is the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the United States, and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Niles did not just compete in these games. He excelled. When the events were over, Niles took home a gold medal in the shot, and gold medal in the javelin, a gold medal in the discus, a gold medal in bowling, and a silver medal in the air guns. Five events, and he earned four gold medals and a silver. That is an amazing accomplishment. But it would be a great accomplishment, even if Niles did not take home a single medal. It is the competition and the will to succeed that marks Niles character, and his character is his true achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me to day is congratulating Niles Delfosse for his success and for the inspiration he gives us all, and we congratulate all of the participants in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Thank you, Niles.

HONORING SUSAN PENN FRENCH

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 14, 1998*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an extraordinary individual, Susan Penn French of Houston, for her many years of leadership and dedicated service to children in the Houston/Harris County community and throughout the State of Texas.

On September 16, 1998, the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers will award Susan Penn French the Volunteer Leadership-Individual Award for her efforts on behalf of sexually abused children. This award is very well deserved as Ms. French is a co-founder of The Children's Assessment Center in Houston, which is nationally and internationally recognized for its pioneering, child-focused approach to meeting the needs of sexually abused children.

Ms. French today serves as President of the Children's Assessment Center Foundation Executive Committee. She and Ellen Cokinos, the Executive Director of the Center, were the driving forces behind the establishment of the Center in 1991 to provide a more compassionate approach to assisting young victims of sexual abuse. Then the President of the Junior League of Houston, Inc., and a member of the Harris County Child Abuse Task Force, Ms. French spearheaded fundraising for the Center, while Ms. Cokinos worked to develop a new therapeutic model.

Together, these two leaders had the vision to conceive of the Center, the resourcefulness to build a remarkable partnership of public and private support, and the drive to get the job done. Their love for and understanding of children is evident in every aspect of The Children's Assessment Center.

The Center, the largest of its kind in the nation, combines the strengths of the public and private sectors and the support of many dedicated volunteers to meet the multiple needs of sexually abused children in the most compassionate and least traumatic way possible. It houses professionals from 10 partner agencies, encompassing children's advocates, law enforcement, and health care providers, to provide a coordinated, team response to protecting children. In addition to providing on-site medical and social services, the Center takes a pioneering approach to meeting law-enforcement needs that involves a single videotape by specially trained interviewers that allows the Center staff, law enforcement officials, social workers, prosecutors, and other partnering members to obtain necessary information without subjecting the child to additional trauma and questioning. This team approach to serving sexually abused children speeds recovery and improves the effectiveness of law enforcement.

From its inception as a program of Harris County Children's Protection Services, the Center has grown exponentially and now stands as its own department of Harris County Commissioner's Court. In a true public-private partnership, the Center receives half of its annual operating budget from Harris County and half from funds raised by its foundation through the generous contributions of corporations, foundations, and individuals. The federal government has been a partner as well, providing support through the Community Development Block Grant, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Foster Care Services, and Victims of Crime programs.

Susan Penn French has been critical to making The Children's Assessment Center what it is today. In addition to leading the initial fundraising, she served as Chair of the Center's first Board of Advisors. After the Center's opening, Ms. French created and developed the unique public/private funding structure, leading to the establishment of the independent, non-profit Children's Assessment Center Foundation.

As President of the Foundation and chair of its capital campaign, Ms French spearheaded a successful drive to raise \$10.25 million to build a new, 53,000-square foot, state-of-the-art facility to house The Children's Assessment Center. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton cut the ribbon to open the new facility in March of this year, using the occasion to pay tribute to the Center's pioneering work and Ms. French's leadership in helping sexually abused children.

Ms. French's work on behalf of children is not limited to the Children Assessment Center. Since 1990, she has advocated on behalf of abused children access Texas by serving as a Board Member of Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children. From 1994 to 1996, she served as president of this organization, which appoints advocates for abused children as they progress through the system. She also serves as a board member of Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc., chairing their Public Relations Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Susan Penn French is highly deserving of this recognition, and I am pleased to join the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, The Children's Assessment Center, Susan's husband, Layne, and their Children, Rebecca an Layne, Jr., in honoring her today for her commitment to serving our nation's most vulnerable citizens and her many accomplishments on their behalf.

COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF  
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE  
UNITED STATES AND THE RE-  
PUBLIC OF KOREA

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 9, 1998*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 459, a resolution commemorating 50 years of relations between the United States and the Republic of Korea. I want to personally thank Congressman GILMAN, the sponsor of the legislation, for his work on this issue.

Since the liberation from colonial Japanese rule and the end of the Korean War, the United States has been a staunch supporter of Korea. During the cold War era, Korea played a key role in impeding the spread of communism around the world. Korea has demonstrated through its own successful transition to democracy that cooperative efforts have been beneficial. Last year, Korea was on the verge of national financial turmoil, but, instead of falling into a depression, it started to rise again with the assistance and cooperation of the United States. It is with respect that we commemorate 50 years of close relations between our countries.

As a father of two adopted children from Korea—Kathryn and Scott—I understand how closely connected Korea is with us. Koreans and Americans have formed a brotherhood, uniting in our common interests and values, which includes the welfare of our children. As we continue pursuing even stronger bilateral relations, Congress should play a positive role in promoting our relations with Korea. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.